Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6800

CONFIDENTIAL MANAGUA 1582

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, PFOR, NU

SUBJECT: OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- REQUEST FOR BILATERAL

REF: STATE 091711

1. DURING DISCUSSION WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER HARRY BODAN TODAY REGARDING CANCELLATION OF SECRETARY'S LATIN AMERICAN VISITS (SEPTEL), HE VOLUNTEERED TO EMBOFF THAT FONMIN ALEJANDRO MONTIEL WOULD LIKE A BRIEF, PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY AT TIME OF OASGA. BODAN SAID THAT FONMIN WAS EAGER TO DISCUSS GENERAL PHILOSOPHY OF INTERAMERICAN RELATIONS. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT HE WOULD CONVEY REQUEST FOR MEETING TO WASHINGTON.

2. RECOMMENDATION: NOT HAVING TO PLAY ACT TO A DOMESTIC AUDIENCE ON "THEM VS. US ISSUES", NICARAGUA MAY BE FREER THAN OTHER CENTRAL AMERICANS TO ESPOUSE MODERATION AT THE OASGA. NEVERTHELESS, BECAUSE OF INCREASED PRESSURE FOR CONSENSUS AMONG CENTRAL AMERICANS AND RECENT VENEZUELAN GAMBITS IN THE REGION WHICH APPEAR TO HAVE SHIFTED CONSENSUS TOWARD GIVING GREATER LIP SERVICE TO LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY. NICARAGUA'S POSITION AT OASGA COULD BE SHAKIER THAN HERETOFORE REGARDING ITS SUPPORT OF US-FAVORED POLICIES. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT SOMOZA CONTINUES TO DIRECT PERSONALLY NEARLY ALL IMPORTANT FACETS OF NICARAGUAN FOREIGN POLICY, THE ARTICULATE AND INTELLIGENT MONTIEL MAY HAVE TO MAKE SOME KEY TACTICAL DECISIONS AT THE GA. SINCE HE COULD BE QUITE USEFUL TO US AT THIS MEETING, ESPECIALLY IF HE IS BROUGHT IN ON THE SAME WAVE LENGTH EARLY ON, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARY ENDEAVOR TO MEET WITH HIM FOR 15-20 MINUTES EITHER BEFORE AR AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CONFERENCE. CONFIDENTIAL

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